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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/691,352	10/18/2000	Duane M. Pinault	55126USA3A.002	3971
32692	7590	01/11/2005	EXAMINER	
3M INNOVATIVE PROPERTIES COMPANY			NORDMEYER, PATRICIA L	
PO BOX 33427			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
ST. PAUL, MN 55133-3427			1772	

DATE MAILED: 01/11/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.	60	
09/691,352		PINAULT ET AL.
Examiner	Art Unit	
Patricia L. Nordmeyer	1772	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 04 November 2004.
2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 2-11,26-32,35 and 37 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6) Claim(s) 2-11,26-32,35 and 37 is/are rejected.
7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____

5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on November 4, 2004 has been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 2 –11, 26 – 29, 35, 37 and 39 – 42 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tsuei (USPN 5,783,303) in view of Tajima et al. (USPN 3,937,640) and George et al. (USPN 5,484,477).

Tsuei discloses an article with a plurality of ceramic granules (Column 11, lines 47 – 51 and Figure 1, #16) bonded to a polymeric film (Column 11, lines 28 – 30 and Figure 1, #11) by a radiation curable (Column 4, lines 41 – 44) aliphatic urethane acrylic copolymer (Column 4, lines 30 – 31) for use as part of anti-slip products or coatings for abrasive articles (Column 1,

lines 26 – 29) having a final thickness of 0.3 mm (Column 19, lines 15 – 17). A variety of items may be added to the curable coating including pigments, dyes, ultraviolet absorbers, ultraviolet scavengers, fillers and adhesion promoters (Column 7, lines 26 – 37). In order to improve adhesion to the coatings, the film may be primed (Column 11, lines 43 – 45). The article may also be formed from a free-standing coating with a layer of adhesive to attach particles to the surface (Column 12, lines 26 – 45). A size coating, sealant, of varying thickness is placed over the particles, completely covering some of the particles, and adhesive layer to help bond the particles to the film (Column 10, lines 39 – 59). The article may be used as a floor covering (Column 9, lines 59 – 64). The product has white ceramic granules (Column 11, line 52) adhered to a film with transparent adhesive (Column 10, lines 63 – 65) that was tested for flexibility, pliability, (Column 25, lines 14 – 24) and had a tensile elongation of 112% (Column 25, lines 37 – 40). However, Tsuei fails to disclose the article being a roofing shingle or roll of roofing material with a film, wherein the integrated granule product forms the exposed surface layer of a roofing material and wherein the integrated granule product is suitable as an exposed surface layer of a roofing material.

George et al. teach an integrated granule product made with ceramic-coated slate base granules (Column 7, lines 1 – 2) that are covered with a thin film composition (Column 7, lines 4 – 6), where the granules are being adhered to the asphalt surface of a shingle backing (substrate) by the thin film coating (Column 7, lines 7 – 8) for the purpose forming a weather-resistant, fire-resistant decorative exterior surface on a roofing shingle (Column 1, lines 20 – 27).

Tajima et al. teach a waterproofing assembly of laminated roofing membranes (Column 15, lines 31 – 32) with a thin film layer covering the top surface of the roofing membrane (Column 7, line 67 to Column 8, line 2; Column 9, lines 40 – 45) for the purpose of making a waterproof system that is used for roofing the top of buildings (Column 1, lines 21 – 25).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the applicant's invention was made to have provided the thin film coating of Tsuei on the roofing membrane of Tajima et al. since Tajima shows the use of a thin film on the roofing membrane instead of granules embedded in the surface of the bitumen. It would have also been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the applicant's invention was made to have provided the ceramic coated particles of George et al. instead of the ceramic particles of Tsuei since both particles provide a weather resistant surface.

One of ordinary skill in the art would have recognized that the claimed integrated granule product would be pliable as determined by the flexibility test according to ASTM D-228-00 and ASTM D-882.97 and the aesthetic color of granules are not affected by the cured adhesive since Tsuei teaches a composition made with ceramic granules adhered to a service using an acrylated aliphatic urethane, which are the same parameters of the claimed invention. Therefore, one of ordinary skill in the art would readily determine the optimum flexibility and color affects depending on the end desired results in the absence of unexpected results.

Response to Arguments

4. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 2 – 11, 26 – 29, 35, 37 and 39 – 42 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Patricia L. Nordmeyer whose telephone number is (571) 272-1496. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon.-Thurs. from 7:00-4:30 & alternate Fridays.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Harold Y. Pyon can be reached on (571) 272-1498. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Patricia L. Nordmeyer
Examiner
Art Unit 1772

pln
pln


HAROLD PYON
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
1772

1/8/05